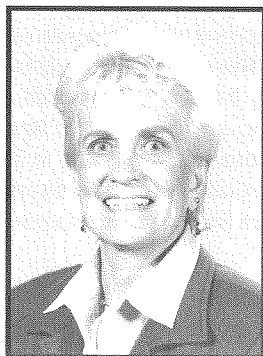


# Hammerstrom's

for the people  
in the 17th Senate District

# Hotline



State Senator  
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**MARCH IS RED CROSS MONTH** The American Red Cross, founded by Clara Barton in 1881, provides relief to victims of disasters and helps people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies. Volunteers work at U.S. military sites here and around the world providing emergency communications and a caring presence to soldiers separated from their families. In addition to providing assistance to our military personnel, the Red Cross provides relief services to communities in the wake of an earthquake, tornado, flood, fire, or other disaster. The Red Cross also offers health and safety training to the public, including classes on life-saving techniques such as CPR and the Heimlich maneuver. For more information about the American Red Cross, including local chapters in your area, please visit their website at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org), or contact my office, toll-free, at 1-888-477-8238.

**DID YOU KNOW?** The Red Cross is responsible for half of the nation's blood supply and blood products. Individuals wishing to make a blood donation to the Red Cross may call their local Red Cross Blood Services office or call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE.

**OUT-OF-STATE WASTE BILLS SENT TO GOVERNOR** The Senate passed sweeping restrictions on the importation of Canadian and out-of-state waste, set a two-year moratorium on new landfills, and gave broader authority to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to enforce these tougher garbage standards. This legislative package represents a bipartisan effort to limit the importation of Canadian and out-of-state waste. Canadian and out-of-state waste accounts for approximately 25 percent of all trash entering Michigan's landfills. The bills provide a comprehensive revision of the state's solid-waste management laws to include additional protections against the disposal of inappropriate waste in Michigan's landfills. The new rules require all Canadian and out-of-state waste to meet the same stringent standards Michigan has for its own waste. Landfills would be required to refuse any out-of-state waste that did not meet the tough standards. The bills await the Governor's signature.

**DRIVER RESPONSIBILITY BILLS FIXED** The Legislature approved a measure last week that would waive a \$300 fee for motorists who fail to show proof of insurance during traffic stops. The Driver Responsibility Act was intended to penalize uninsured drivers but instead created hefty fees for any driver who could not produce proof of insurance at the time of the traffic stop. HB 4308 allows a driver to show proof that they had auto insurance at the time of the violation prior to the appearance date on the citation. If they do this, no Driver Responsibility fees may be levied. The bill also provides for reimbursement of drivers already assessed. The legislation provides drivers with an opportunity to appear in court and appeal the court's ruling that resulted in the fee. If drivers prove they had insurance, the fees will be refunded by the Secretary of State. The legislation does not, however, remove the civil infraction for failure to show proof of insurance. Courts may still assess a \$25 fee for tickets issued, even if a driver appears in court with proof of insurance. The bill has been sent to the Governor for approval.

**PREPAID FUNERAL PROTECTION BILLS SIGNED INTO LAW** Legislation protecting consumers' prepaid funeral arrangements was recently signed into law. Public Acts 21 and 22 of 2004 require all sellers of prepaid funeral goods and services to place 100 percent of a consumer's money in a secure escrow account. This ensures the money is available to pay for all goods and services at a later date or provide a full refund, if necessary. Prior to the legislation, cemeteries were not required to hold prepaid funds in an account, causing consumers to lose all or a portion of their investment.

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[www.senate.michigan.gov/hammerstrom/news/Hotline.htm](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/hammerstrom/news/Hotline.htm).